

24th October 2023

Minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of the **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham from 7.30pm to 10.17 pm

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr M Gee

Councillors: Cllrs B Alvi (Vice Chair), B Callender, R Comber, M Lucey, T Lack, A Mather (*left the meeting at 9pm*) and H Richards,

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk: Katy Hughes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Shepherd-Dubey and S Gurney (Ex Officio).

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

Cllr M Gee declared an interest in the application for financial assistance received from Kaleidoscopic and left the room while this application was discussed.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OR THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

No questions were received.

F&P BUDGET PROPOSALS (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr H Richards and seconded by Cllr T Lack and it was

RESOLVED 30731

that the following budget items be included in the list of items for consideration at the November committee meeting:

- a) Hire vehicle for grounds team - £4,500 (ongoing annual spend)
- b) Laptop replacement program - £3,500 (ongoing annual spend)
- c) Museum Summer Internship through the University of Reading - £1,000 (one-off spend)

A vote was taken and five members voted in favour. One member abstained from voting.

Members discussed a proposal for Member Remuneration and following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr M Lucey, seconded by Cllr R Comber and it was

RESOLVED 30732

that this item would not be put forward for consideration for the 2024-25 budget, but that it should be re-considered in 2 years' time, for the 2026-27 budget.

A vote was taken and six members voted in favour, one member voted against and one member abstained from voting.

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EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 5)

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack, seconded by Cllr B Callender and it was

**RESOLVED
30733**

that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted i.e. commercial, financial and personnel, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

IN-YEAR SMALL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (Agenda Item 6)

The Town Clerk reported on the Town Clerk report 28/2023 regarding the introduction of an in-year small grant funding opportunity.

Following discussion, it was proposed that the sum to be ringfenced for this be £10,000, that the proposed maximum application value of £2,500 be removed and that the review of these in-year grants become a standing item on each F&P committee agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Lack, seconded by Cllr Callender and members

**RESOLVED
30734**

to introduce an in-year small grant funding opportunity from April 2024.

The Town Clerk will update the existing grant policy and bring a revised version back to a future meeting for review.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Agenda Item 7)

At the July 2023 Finance & Personnel Committee meeting it had been resolved that the existing grants policy and application form be used the 2024-25 grant funding cycle and that the grants budget for 2024-2025 be set at a maximum of £111,882.

Members noted that, as the council's Strategic Vision for 2023-2027 had not been finalised prior to the opening of the grant application process in July, that no service provider grants would be awarded this year, in order to allow the council to position future applications for financial assistance against the council's new strategic vision.

All Cllrs had been sent a spreadsheet listing the grant requests, grants awarded over the previous four years, together with an allocation of this year's application forms and supporting documentation for consideration prior to the meeting.

During the discussion, members resolved to allow the meeting to continue beyond 10pm.

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee, seconded by Cllr B Alvi and members

CHAIR INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30735**

that the grants should be allocated as follows:

Holt Copse Conservation Volunteers

A grant of £750 be awarded.

Keep Mobile

A grant of £6,000 be awarded.

Link Visiting Scheme

A grant of £5,000 be awarded.

Wokingham Job Support Centre

A grant of £5,000 be awarded.

Ecclesiastical Parish of Winnersh (St Catherine's Church – Churchyard maintenance)

A grant of £237 be awarded.

Kaleidoscopic

A grant of £985 be awarded.

Wokingham Volunteer Centre

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Home Start Wokingham

A grant of £2,831 be awarded.

St Paul's Church – Churchyard Maintenance

A grant of £1,500 be awarded.

Wokingham Cycling Club

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Me 2 Club

A grant of £2,500 be awarded.

Friends of the Emm Brook

A grant of £400 be awarded.

Wokingham Lions (Winter Carnival)

A grant of £16,000 be awarded.

All Saints Church (Churchyard Project)

A grant of £2,000 be awarded.

Wokingham Pride

A grant of £860 be awarded.

Saint Sebastian Band

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A grant of £3,000 be awarded.

First Days

A grant of £5,000 be awarded.

Wokingham In Need

A grant of £1,500 be awarded.

Wokingham Lions (Classic Car Show)

A grant of £2,000 be awarded.

Fiends of Fox Hill

A grant of £560 be awarded.

All Saints Church (Churchyard Maintenance)

A grant of £1,500 be awarded.

Our Community First

A grant of £2,000 be awarded.

Wokingham Lions (May Fayre)

A grant of £14,000 be awarded.

CLASP

A grant of £864 be awarded.

Cowshed

A grant of £880 be awarded.

Dingley's Promise

A grant of £2,802 be awarded.

Wokingham and West Berkshire Mental Health

A grant of £4,000 be awarded.

Citizens Advice Wokingham

A grant of £10,000 be awarded.

Wokingham Fireworks

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Applications for grants amounted to £131,152 and during this evening's meeting a total of £95,169 was awarded.

Letters will be sent to all applicants advising them of the outcome of their applications.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

The meeting ended at 10.17pm

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